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WITNESS my hand this
Twenty-fifth day of October 2004

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'L. Mynott'.

LEANNE MYNOTT
MANAGER EXAMINATION SUPPORT
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ORIGINAL
AUSTRALIA

Patents Act 1990

PROVISIONAL SPECIFICATION

Invention Title: "Retrieval Aid"

The invention is described in the following statement:

- 2 -

"Retrieval Aid"**Field of the Invention**

This invention relates to a retrieval aid.

Background Art

- 5 The invention is intended to be used with a line having an object at the end whereby the aid can be utilised to retrieve the object in the event that it becomes engaged at a position at which it cannot be readily accessed. An example of an application of the invention relates to retrieval aid which can be utilised in association with a fishing line in order to retrieve a fish hook or lure that may have
- 10 become snagged. Another application of the aid relates to a means which can be utilised to engage and retrieve a fishing hook that may have become embedded in the body or skin of an animal such as a fish, bird or the like. Another example of an application of the embodiment relates to a device which could be utilised in association with a kite in order to retrieve the kite from a raised structure such as a
- 15 tree, roof or the like without the necessity to climb the tree or roof to retrieve the device.

Disclosure of the Invention

- Accordingly the invention resides in a retrieval aid intended for use with a flexible line having an object located at the end of the line, the retrieval aid comprising a
- 20 shaft having a line engagement member mounted at one end, said member being readily engagable with the line whereby when engaged with the line the member surrounds the line and is capable of movement along the line.

- According to a preferred feature of the invention the member is of an annular configuration. According to a preferred feature of the invention the member is
- 25 supported from the one end of the shaft to extend to one side of the shaft. According to a preferred feature of the invention the plane of the member is

- 3 -

inclined to the central axis of the shaft and extends outwardly from the end of the shaft.

According to a preferred feature of the invention the member is formed as a coil comprising more than one turn. According to a preferred feature of the invention
5 the adjacent portions of the turns of the coil are spaced from each other. According to a particular embodiment of the invention the coil comprises a complete first turn and a partial second turn. According to a preferred feature of the invention the base of the coil to which the shaft is attached is axially outermost relative to the shaft and the remainder of the coil. According to a preferred feature
10 of the invention the base of the coil to which the shaft is attached is axially innermost relative to the shaft and the remainder of the coil.

According to a preferred feature of the invention a member is formed with an opening in its circumference and the opening is associated with a closure to provide access into and out of the interior of the member.

15 According to a preferred feature of the invention the shaft is extendable.

According to a preferred feature of the invention the shaft is resiliently flexible.

According to a preferred feature of the invention the shaft supports a retention member which is slidable along the shaft and a cord which is fixed at one end to the retention member, the shaft being formed to prevent disengagement of the
20 retention member from either end of the shaft.

According to a preferred feature of the invention said member has a dimension less than the object supported by the line.

The invention will be more fully understood in the light of the following description of several specific embodiments.

- 4 -

Brief Description of the Drawings

The description is made with reference to the accompanying drawings of which:

Figure 1 is a schematic illustration of a retrieval aid according to the first embodiment;

- 5 Figure 2 is a side elevation of the line engagement member according to the first embodiment;

Figure 3 is an opposite side elevation to that of Figure 2;

Figure 4 is a rear elevation of the line retention member according to the first embodiment;

- 10 Figure 5 is a plan view of the line engagement member according to the first embodiment.

Figure 6 is a plan view of the line engagement member according to the third embodiment;

- 15 Figure 7 is an inverted plan view of the line engagement member according to the third embodiment;

Figure 8 is a side elevation of the line engagement member according to the third embodiment;

Figure 9 is an opposite side elevation to that of Figure 8;

- 20 Figure 10 is a side view of the third embodiment illustrating the engagement of a the retrieval device with a fish hook; and

Figure 11 is an opposite side elevation to that of Figure 10.

- 5 -

Detailed Description of Specific Embodiments

The first embodiment is directed to a retrieval aid which is intended to be used by fly fishermen in order to facilitate the retrieval of a snagged lure. The embodiment will be described with reference to the Figures 1 to 5 of the accompanying drawings which should be appreciated are illustrative only.

The retrieval aid according to the first embodiment comprises a shaft 11, a line engagement member 13 at one end of the shaft 11, a retention member 15 which is slidably supported along the shaft 11 and a cord or lanyard 17 which is connected to the retention member 15.

- 10 The shaft is formed of a suitable flexible material such as fibre glass or other like fibre reinforced plastics and is flexible throughout its length. At one end the shaft supports the line engagement member 13 and is provided with one half of a coupling 21 at its other end. In addition the shaft is formed of several inter-engagable sections having complementary couplings 21 at each end in order to
15 facilitate the extension of the shaft as required by the user.

- The line engagement member 13 which is shown in Figure 1 in an enlarged form relative to the shaft comprises a coil member having approximately $1\frac{1}{2}$ turns with the turns in a close spaced relationship (as shown) where the base of the coil which is innermost relative to the remainder of the coil, is mounted to one end of
20 the shaft 11. The other end of the coil is divergent outwardly from the remainder of the coil and as a result the free end 16 of the coil is offset from the main body of the coil in that it extends axially and generally tangentially outwardly from the main body as is shown at Figures 3, 4 and 5. This serves to in use prevent the line once being engaged with the coil from being engaged between the turns of the coil
25 and disengaging therefrom.

The retrieval aid is intended to facilitate the retrieval of a fishing lure in the event that it becomes snagged. In such an event the line engagement member 13 is engaged with the line by introducing the line into the entry 19 which is defined at the junction between the line engagement member 13 and the shaft 11 and then

- 6 -

between the turns of the engagement member 13 to cause the line to become received within the confines of the coil. Once the engagement member is engaged with the line it can be moved along the length of the line whilst the shaft is being held by the user until such time as the coil reaches the lure at the free end of the line. Once the engagement member is engaged with the lure, the shaft can then be manipulated to cause the coil to engage the lure and effect its disengagement from the snag or like obstruction without placing any undue stress on the line itself which could result in a loss of the lure.

The line retention member 15 comprises a resilient part circular element which can be resiliently deformed to be applied over the shaft and which has a diameter less than that of the coupling 21 at the free end of the shaft in order to prevent its inadvertent disengagement from the shaft. The retention member 15 is slidably received on the shaft 11 and is associated with the lanyard. In use the lanyard can be wrapped around the wrist of the user as shown or can be applied around an adjacent fixed element (such as cleat on a boat) to ensure that the retrieval aid is not lost if it falls from the grasp of the user.

According to a second embodiment of the invention is a variation from the first embodiment and comprises a device which can be used to extract a fish hook from the mouth or body of a fish once caught where the device has a shortened shaft and the engagement member takes the same form as in the case of the first embodiment. If desired the second embodiment may be capable of being mounted to the end of a resilient shaft of the form of the first embodiment in order that it can be used to retrieve lures in a similar manner to the first embodiment.

The third embodiment is directed to a retrieval aid which is intended to be used by fishermen in order to facilitate the retrieval of a hook from the mouth of a fish. The embodiment will be described with reference to the Figures 6 to 11 of the accompanying drawings which should be appreciated are illustrative only.

The third embodiment is of a similar form to the first embodiment with the exception of the orientation of the coil. In the case of the third embodiment the base of the

- 7 -

coil which is attached to the shaft is axially outermost and the turns of the coil are spaced from each other (as shown).

The configuration of the coil of the third embodiment and its orientation enables a line to be readily engaged with the coil by one action. In addition as illustrated at
5 Figures 10 and 11 once a hook is engaged by the coil and is disengaged from within the fish the application of tension to the line by the user will cause the hook to slide to the axially innermost position on the coil adjacent the end of the shaft with the point of the hook lying adjacent the shaft. As a result the point of the hook is held alongside the shaft and as a result is less likely to become reengaged with
10 the flesh of the fish as the coil and hook are removed from the fish. In addition while the angle of the coil will readily cause the hook to slide to the portion of the coil most adjacent the shaft when disengaged from the fish and with adequate tension being applied to the line in effecting the disengagement of the hook from the fish the coil can be engaged with the hook and with tension being applied to the
15 line the retrieval device does not need to be displaced too far inwardly into the body of the fish during the disengagement step.

Throughout the specification, unless the context requires otherwise, the word "comprise" or variations such as "comprises" or "comprising", will be understood to
20 imply the inclusion of a stated integer or group of integers but not the exclusion of any other integer or group of integers.

It should be appreciated that the scope of the present invention need not be limited to the particular scope of the embodiment described above. In particular the invention need not be limited to particular application described above in relation to the embodiments but can be utilised with any flexible elongate member or line to
25 retrieve an object or manipulate a free end of the line

Dated this twenty third day of February 2004

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1 / 7

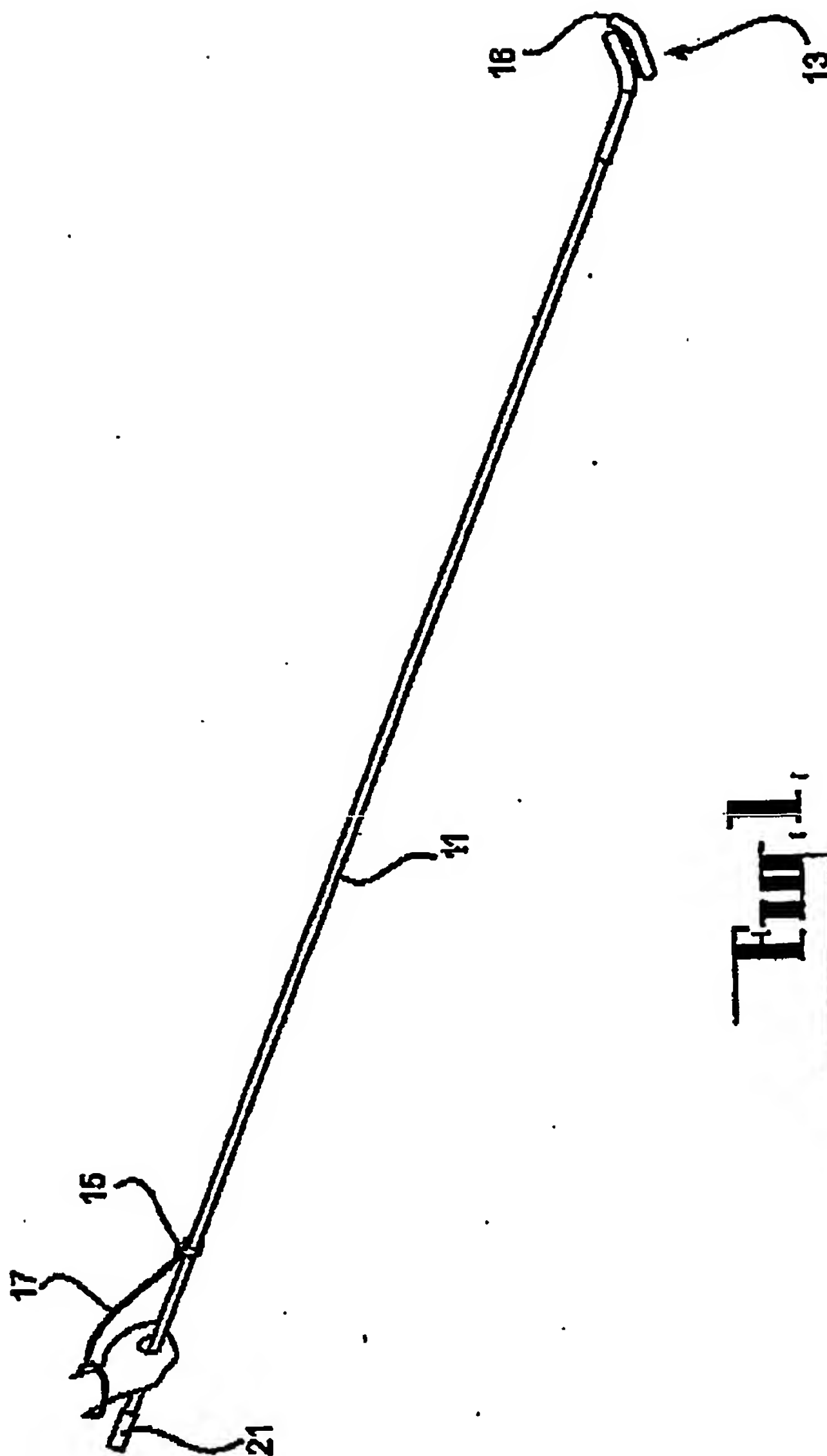


Fig. 1

2/7

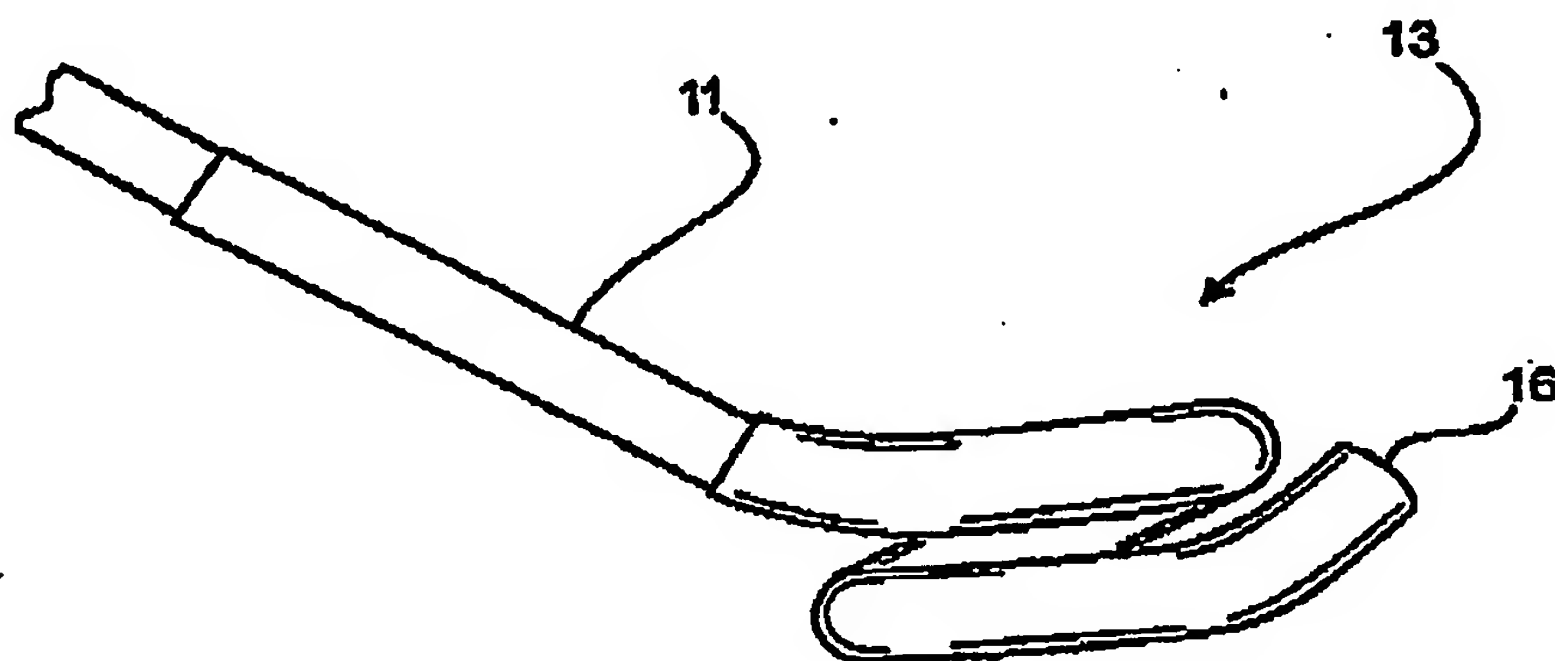


Fig. 2

3 / 7

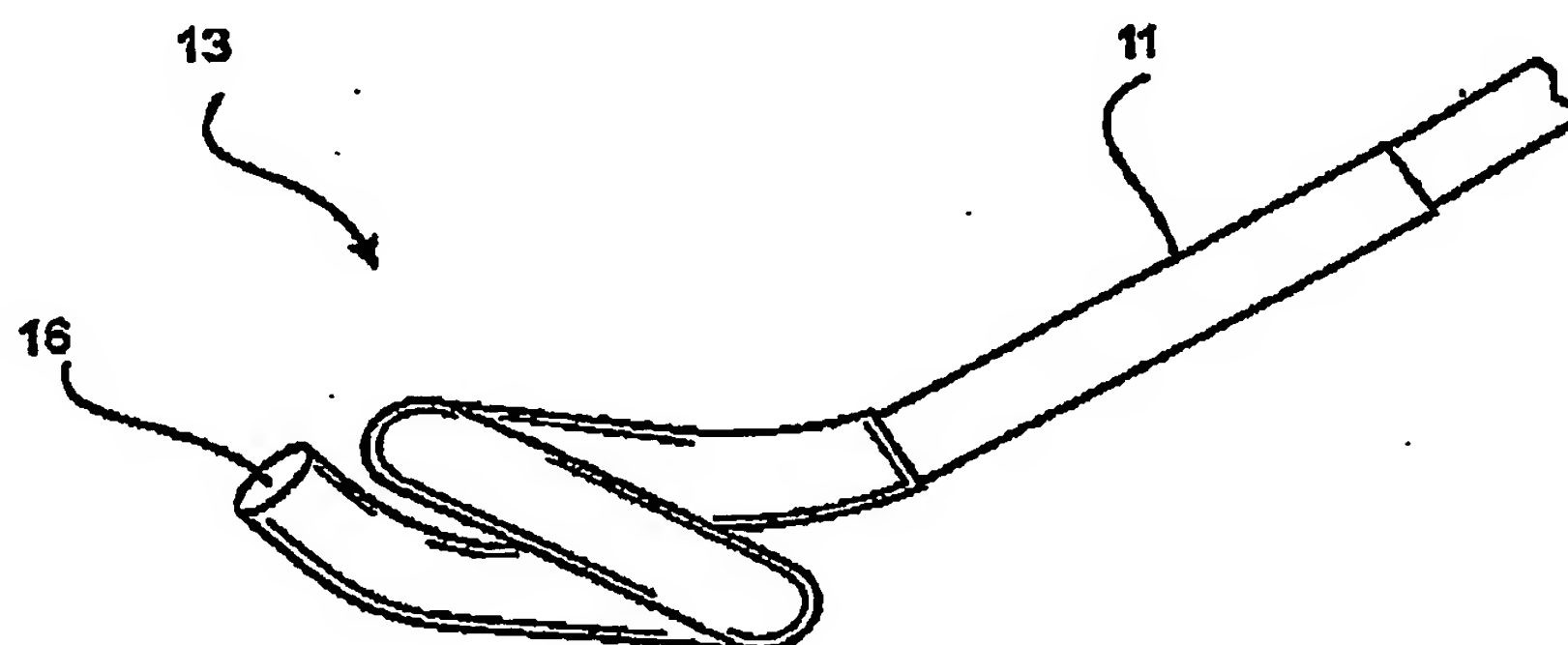


Fig. 3.

4 / 7

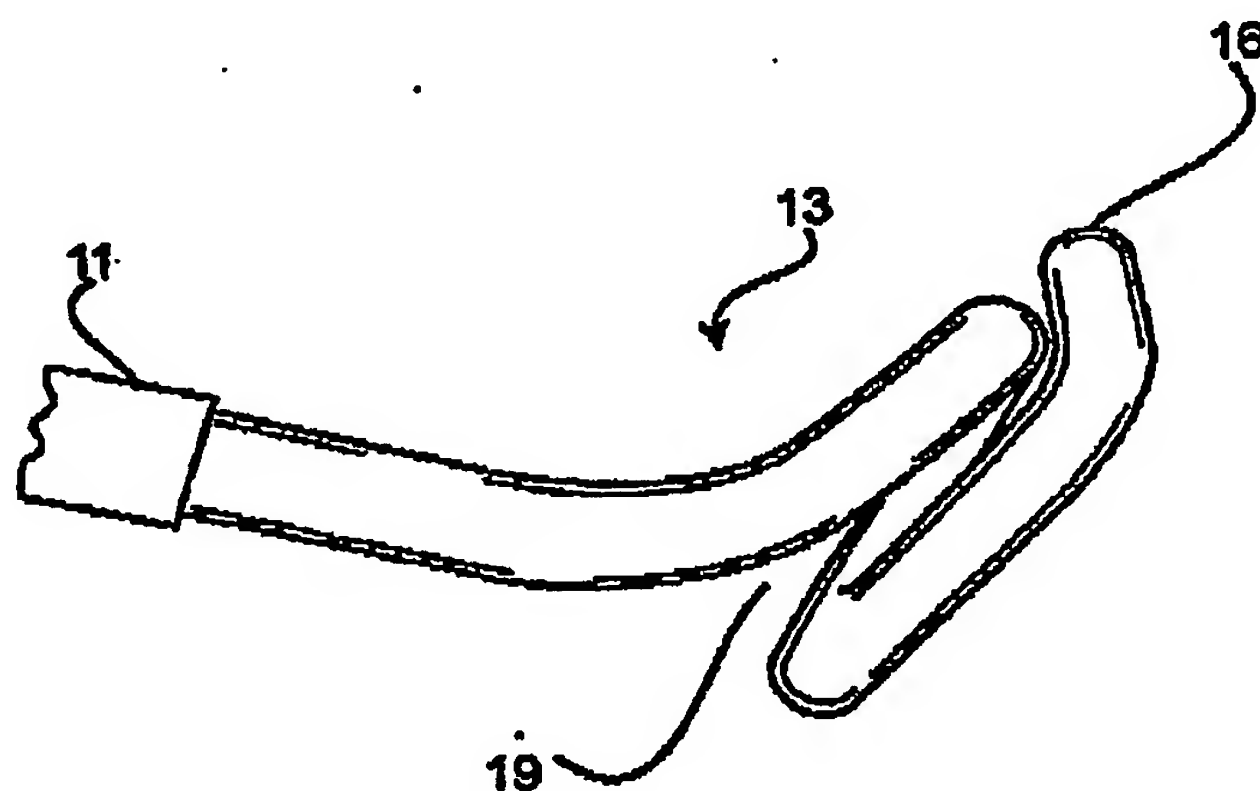


Fig. 4.

5/7

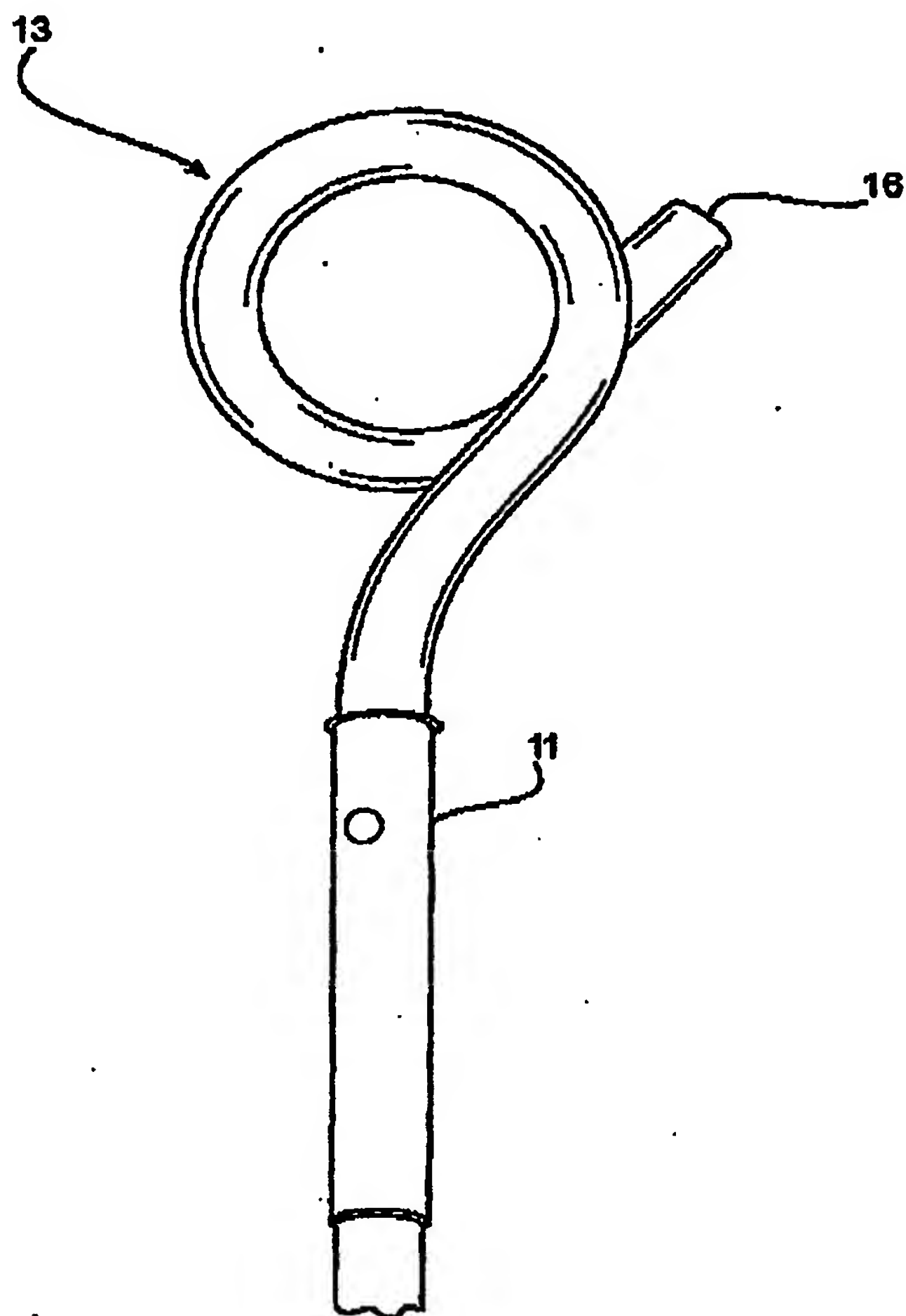


FIG. 5.

6/7

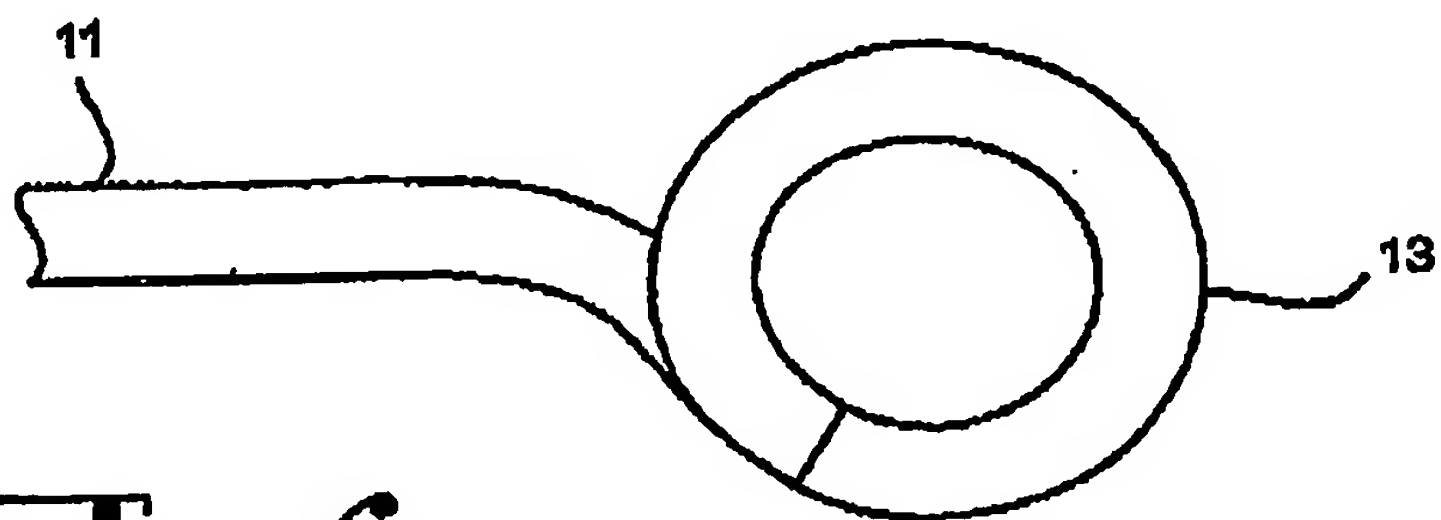


Fig. 6.

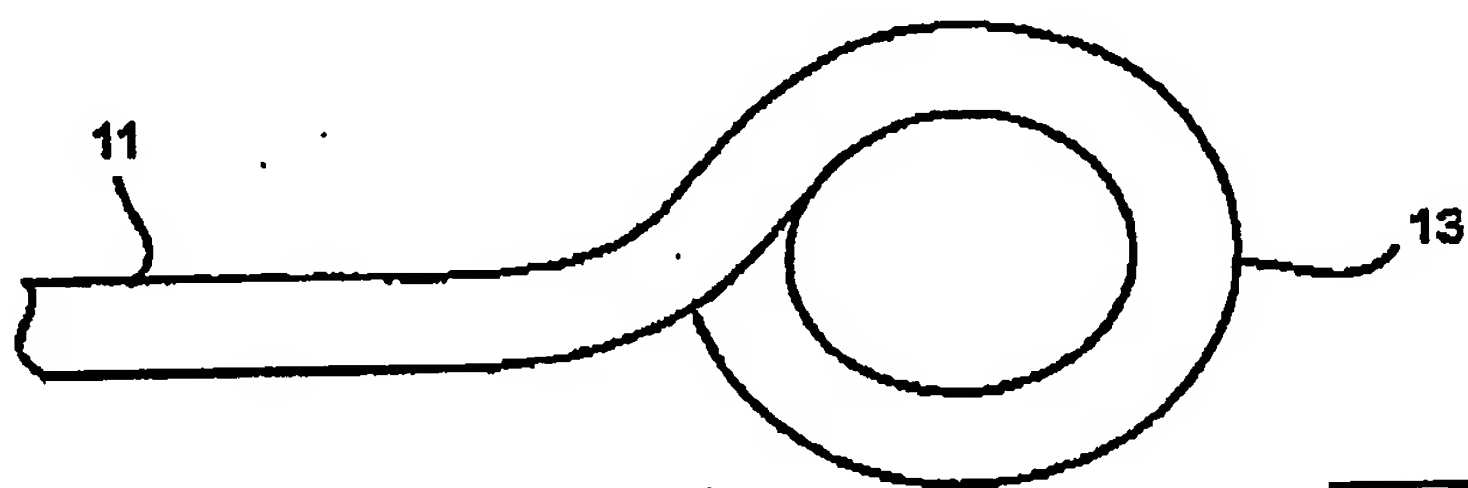


Fig. 7.

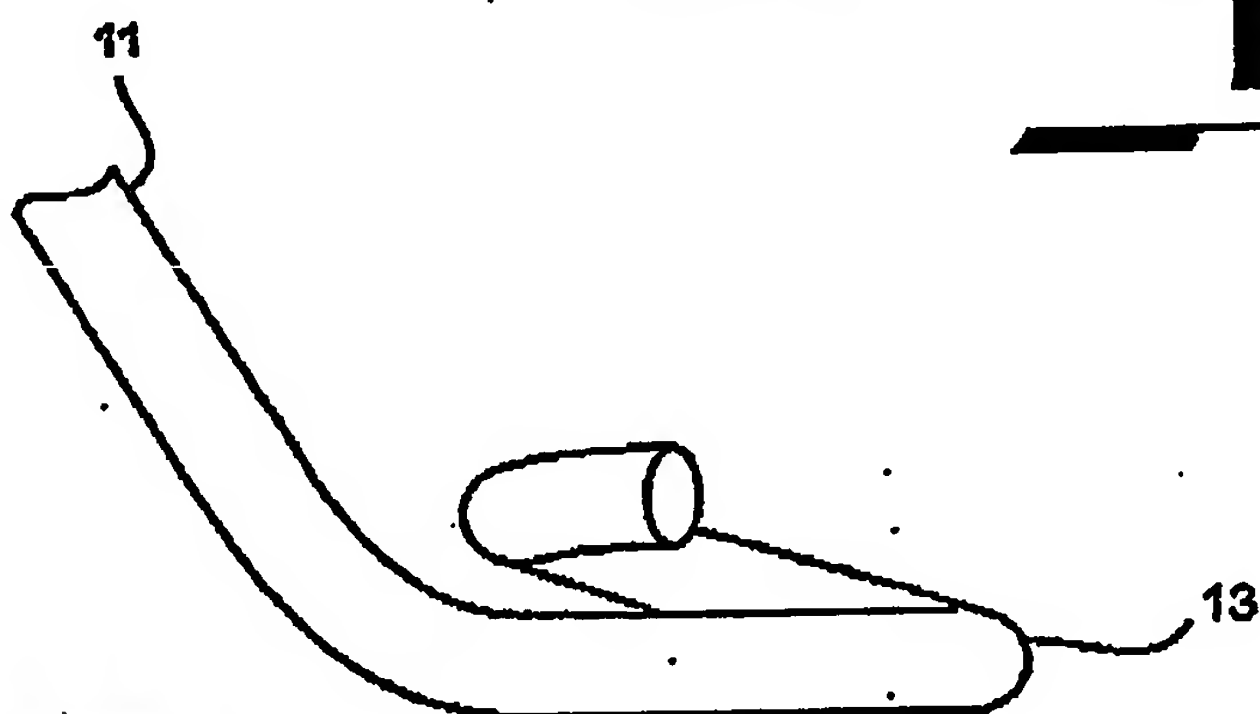


Fig. 8.

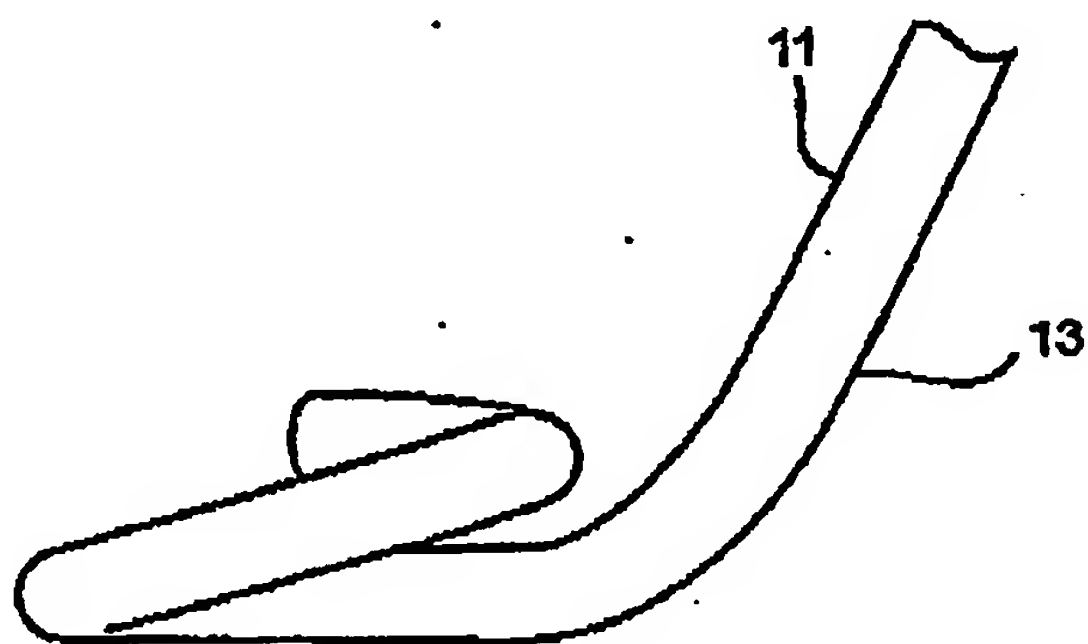


Fig. 9.

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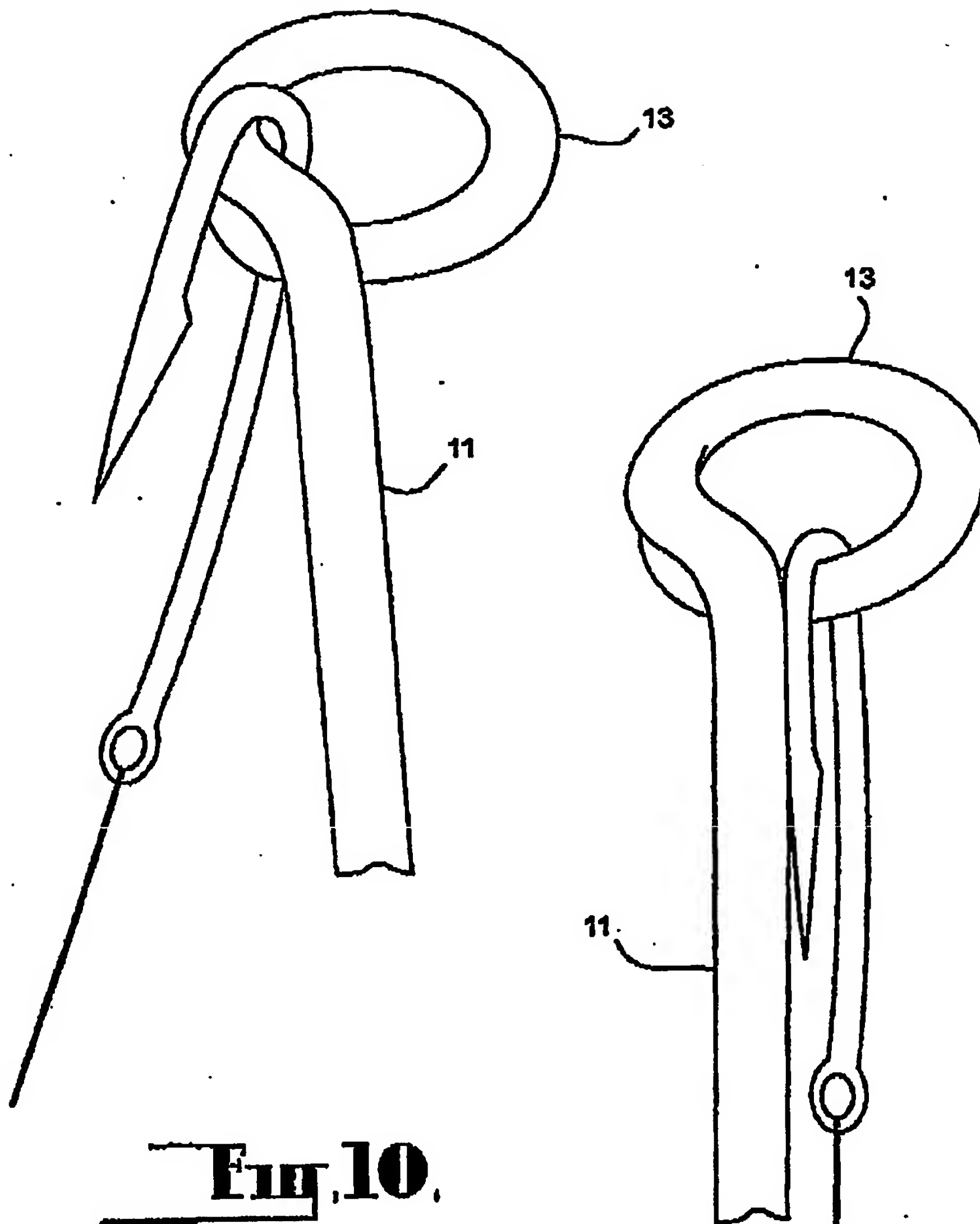


Fig. 10.

Fig. 11.

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